

Response to Taylor and Curhan

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We share the concerns of Drs Taylor and Curhan that a negative calcium balance could accompany dietary calcium restriction. However, with all due respect, we believe they have misinterpreted our recommendations. We suggested that calcium restriction be applied as a part of broad dietary modification that was also limited in sodium and animal proteins. We ourselves have published on the stone-forming risk of dietary sodium¹ and animal proteins.² Furthermore, we did not imply that stone-forming patients with hypercalciuria be treated with calcium restriction alone. Rather, we suggested that dietary modification should be combined with pharmacological intervention consisting of a calcium-sparing diuretic and bone-protective potassium alkali. When so combined, we previously reported that bone density stabilized or increased despite dietary calcium restriction during long-term follow-up.³ Lastly, we would like to note that intestinal calcium absorption is considerably elevated in absorptive hypercalciuria, with absorbed calcium exceeding urinary calcium.⁴

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4. Pak CYC, Ohata M, Lawrence EC *et al*. The hypercalciurias: causes, parathyroid functions and diagnostic criteria. *J Clin Invest* 1974; **54**: 387–400.

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